

# **Child Protection Accountability Commission**

## **Training Committee**

*CAN Best Practices Workgroup*

Monday, December 2, 2013

*10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

*DSCYF, Room 198*

*Minutes*

In Attendance:

Brian Daly	DOJ
Jen Donahue, Esq.	Office of the Secretary
Lt. Randy Fisher	DSP
Rosalie Morales	OCA
Cpl. Adrienne Owen, Chair	DSP
Anne Pedrick	CDNDSC
Ashlee Starratt	Office of the Secretary
Sgt. Jerry Windish	DSP
Melanie Withers, Esq.	DOJ

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Cpl. Owen opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

### **II. CPAC Charge to Workgroup**

Cpl. Owen provided an overview of the Joint Committee on the Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse and explained that the workgroup was created as a result of recommendations in its Final Report. These recommendations will serve as the mission of the workgroup, which is as follows: 1. To develop and publish “best practice” guidelines for the investigation of child sexual abuse, death and near death cases. 2. To provide regular training opportunities and demonstrative tools for professionals involved in the investigation or prosecution of serious child abuse cases.

### **III. Membership**

For future meetings, the group discussed inviting representatives from the Children’s Advocacy Center, Division of Family Services, New Castle County Police Department, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Police Chief’s Council, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs, Wilmington Police Department, and the medical community.

### **IV. Opportunities for Improvement**

The following opportunities for improvement were identified:

- Interviews with children occur in front of non-offending parent and/or alleged perpetrator;
- Reports are not made to DFS;
- Municipal police departments are not familiar with the available resources (i.e. CAC, Child Abuse and Neglect Report Line number) and handle cases less frequently;
- Lack of collaboration and information sharing between the Medical Examiner’s Office and other investigatory agencies; and
- Limited resources to support the Child Victims Unit.

### **V. Best Practices**

The group will seek approval from CPAC to revise the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, the Children's Advocacy Center, the Department of Justice, and Delaware Police Departments to integrate the best practice guidelines.

**VI. Training**

Minimal Facts Training was suggested as a component of the training curriculum. Additionally, tiered training courses should be offered based on the level of experience of the investigator.

**VII. Next Steps**

- Invite additional representatives
- Review MOU
- Review related recommendations from child death and near death reviews
- Further discussion of opportunities for improvement

**VIII. Future Meeting Dates**

Future meeting dates were not identified.

Submitted by R. Morales